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1 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Interview with [REDACTED], Comptroller's Office,  
re History of Comptroller's Office, 1953-1956

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1. In connection with the financial history of the Agency, [REDACTED] said that the Director did not feel safe unless he had a contingency fund of at least [REDACTED] in view of the fact that it took eighteen months to get an appropriation. The contingency fund can only be spent on the approval of the Bureau of the Budget. The fact that the Bureau of the Budget releases a sum of money from the contingency fund does not necessarily mean that the contingency fund will be obligated to that extent. The Comptroller's office always tries to find other surplus funds. Whether there will be ~~known~~ known ~~these~~ surplus funds may not be ~~available~~ available at the time that money is requested from the contingency fund. During the period of the history there was some use of the contingency fund each fiscal year.

(Does not check with figs.)

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2. The budget document labelled Congressional Budget for Fiscal 1959 contained historical material on obligations for Fiscal 1957 which includes the second half of calendar year 1956. He said that the Budget Division would make these materials available. The document was not one given to the House Appropriations Committee. It was used to answer questions that might be asked by members of the Committee. An abbreviated form ~~and~~ of the estimates was given to the Committee.

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3. He said that he would prepare material on the organizational history of the Comptroller's Office. This would indicate the changes in the organization and the reasons for these changes. He would also give the number of employees in each division at the beginning and the end of the period.

4. He would also list the accomplishments of the Office during the period, the improvements made in the procedures for preparing and executing the budget, the training of budget officers in the operating offices, and the development of budget standards. He showed me a series of charts which his office had prepared on the budget process for the Doolittle Committee. He said that the Office had been developing these procedures during the Dulles administration. He said that he would attach the charts to his report.

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